

REFLECTION

Questions

JOHN 3:14-21

- Jesus compares Himself to the bronze serpent lifted up in Numbers 21:4-9. What parallels do you see between the Israelites' snakebites (judgment for sin) and our own spiritual "poison" today (e.g., guilt, addiction, bitterness, or despair)?
- The Israelites were told simply to "look" in faith to live—no works or merit required. How does this challenge common ideas that we must "earn" God's favor or clean up our lives before coming to Jesus?
- Jesus says the Son of Man "must be lifted up." Why was the cross necessary? How does knowing Jesus' death was planned and purposeful (not accidental) affect your view of suffering or God's control in your life?
- "For God so loved the world..." - Rewrite John 3:16 in your own words without using the original phrasing. Who is the "world"? Who is included (or excluded) in God's love here, and how does that surprise or comfort you?
- God "gave" His only Son—not just sent Him, but surrendered Him to death. What does this level of sacrificial love reveal about God's character? How have you experienced (or struggled to believe) that God loves you this personally and profoundly?
- Verse 17 says Jesus came not to condemn but to save. In what ways do people (including Christians) sometimes view God as primarily judgmental? How can this passage reshape our understanding of God's heart toward the broken world around us?
- Verse 18 says the one who does not believe is "condemned already." What does this mean? Why isn't judgment something future only—why is unbelief itself the root issue?
- People "loved darkness rather than light because their works were evil" (v. 19). What "darkness" (hidden sins, pride, fear of exposure) do you sometimes prefer? What fears keep you from fully stepping into God's light?
- Verses 20-21 contrast those who hate the light (avoiding it to hide evil) with those who come to the light (their deeds are exposed as God's work). On a scale of 1-10, how comfortable are you with your life being "seen" by God and others? What one area might God be inviting you to bring into the light this week (through confession, prayer, or accountability)?
- True believers "come to the light" so their deeds are seen as "wrought in God." How does living transparently in Christ change how we relate to sin, shame, or hypocrisy? Share a time when exposing something to God's light brought freedom rather than fear.